Delta Project and 4534 ha. under the Tank Irrigation.

Export of Textiles to Japan

335. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is vast scope of export of textiles to Japan;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the countries that are importing Indian textiles at present; and

(d) the quantum of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government and various Textile Export Promotion Councils have taken several measures to increase textile exports to Japan. These include:—

(i) Visit of high level delegations to Japan to study the Japanese markets.

(ii) Participation in various fairs/ Exhibitions/Buyer Seller Meets in Japan.

(iii) Holding of seminars on potentials for export to Japan.

(iv) Visit of Japanese fashion technicians/designers to India to train Indian exporters etc.

(c) Almost all countries import textiles from India. The major importers include EEC member countries, USA, USSR, JAPAN, Bengladesh, Australia etc.

(d) The export of Textiles excluding jute and handicrafts from India during the last three years are as given below:—

Year	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1987-88	3814
1988-89	4398
	6500

(Sources: Textile Export Promotion Councils.)

Rise in the Prices of Steel

336. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that prices of all categories of steel have soared by an average of Rs. 1200/- per tonne during the last three months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the rise in prices of steel;

(c) whether the price rise has affected the cost of construction of houses; if so, to what extent;

(d) whether this price rise has also affected the general price level; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to check the steel prices?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (e) Open market prices of iron and steel fluctuate on the basis of demand and supply from time to time and levels of JPC prices. There is no direct or indirect regulation on the prices of the output of the producers in the secondary sector; they fix their own prices. The JPC prices for main steel producers are adjusted by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) from time to time to neutralise the increases in input costs and other levies. There is no such increase in the prices of steel items produced by the integrated steel plants in the last three months. There is, however, an open market premium which varies from place to place and time to time,